

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Kindly amend the claims in this application in the following manner:

1. (currently amended) A shopping cart, comprising:
 - a wheeled base having forward and rear portions,
 - a container supported by said base,
 - a gate member pivotably attached to a handle assembly mounted to ~~portion of~~ said base rearwardly of said container and functionally arranged therewith to act as a closure for the rear of said container,
 - a pedestal formed on said base for supporting said container thereon,
 - said pedestal being secured to said base at a location
 - between the forward and rearward ends of said base,
 - said container being secured ~~supported~~ on said pedestal at a fixed location so that the lower rear of said container is disposed forwardly of the rear of the base.
2. (currently amended) The shopping cart of claim 1, wherein said ~~base~~ handle assembly includes a handle member extending upwardly ~~therefrom~~ from the base and said container comprises a basket, wherein said pedestal includes a surface for supporting the rear of the basket forwardly of the rear of the base, and said basket is hung from said handle member at a location disposed a substantial distance from the upper part of said handle member, such that said cart possesses a lowered center of gravity.
3. (currently amended) The shopping cart of claim 2, wherein said basket includes front, back, bottom, and side panels, and said pedestal includes a table portion to ~~on~~ which the rear portion of the bottom panel of said basket ~~sits~~ is secured in a stationary position.
4. (original claim) The shopping cart of claim 3, wherein said table portion of said pedestal is substantially horizontally arranged.

5. (original claim) The shopping cart of claim 3, wherein said table portion is slightly inclined relative to the base.

6. (original claim) The shopping cart of claim 5, wherein the back of said table portion is lower than the front of said table portion.

7. (previously amended) The shopping cart of claim 3, wherein said handle member includes a U-shaped handle portion at a top end thereof and a pair of connecting rods for connecting said handle member to said pedestal at the rear of said table portion.

8. (previously amended) The shopping cart of claim 3, wherein the lower region of said handle includes a base attachment member having a forward attachment region and a rearward attachment region, said base attachment member being disposed rearwardly of said table portion.

9. (original claim) The shopping cart of claim 8, wherein said forward attachment region is secured to the table portion and the rearward attachment region is secured to the rear of said base.

10. (original claim) The shopping cart of claim 9, wherein said forward attachment region of said handle member is secured to the rear portion of said table portion.

11. (currently amended) The shopping cart of claim 1, and further including a pair of vertically spaced apart hinge rods, a first one of said hinge rods being located in the vicinity of the upper end of said handle member and being disposed on said handle member at a first height at which the pivoting rear gate of baskets of "conventional" shopping carts are generally hung, and the other of said hinge rods being disposed below said first one of said hinge rods, said lower hinge rod pivotably securing the rear gate of said basket.

12. (original claim) The shopping cart of claim 10, wherein said pedestal table portion is supported on resilient elements connected to the base, and the space between said basket and said base is minimized to the extent that its use as storage for merchandise has effectively been eliminated.

13. (original claim) The shopping cart of claim 2, and further including a child seat at the rear of the basket, said child seat being disposed at a height substantially below the height of the upper end of the handle member.

14. (original claim) The shopping cart of claim 13, wherein said child seat pivots between a non-functional position in which the rear of the child seat is disposed adjacent the rear gate of the basket and a functional position in which the rear of the child seat is pivoted forwardly into the basket.

15. (currently amended) A shopping cart frame, comprising:

a wheeled base having forward and rear portions,

a handle member including two horizontally spaced apart, substantially parallel rods attached to said handle member,

a pedestal formed on said base for supporting a container thereon,

said pedestal being mounted to said base at a location between the forward and rearward ends of said base and at a height relative to said base such that the space between the pedestal and the base is minimized to such an extent that its use as storage for merchandise has effectively been eliminated,

said pedestal further including surface means for engaging the container and holding it such that the rear of the container is disposed forwardly of the rear of the base, and at a height relative to the base which is substantially lower than the height at which containers in "conventional" shopping carts are disposed,

the lower of the two horizontally spaced apart rods having a gate pivotally attached thereto for closing the rear portion of the container,

whereby when a container is mounted on the cart frame, the frame and container together ~~exhibit~~ possess a lower center of gravity than the center of gravity exhibited by container and frame combinations of "~~conventional~~" other known shopping carts.

16. (currently amended) The shopping cart frame of claim 15, wherein said base includes side rails and casters mounted to the side rails for enabling rolling movement of said base on a horizontal surface, and further including a handle assembly mounted to said base, said handle assembly comprising vertically arranged spine members extending upwardly from said base, said spine members being laterally spaced apart and terminating in a handle defining a handle plane, said spine members including a pair of vertically spaced apart horizontal rod members extending between and connected to the spine members and disposed substantially normal to said spine members and, said horizontal rod members being located between said handle plane and said base assembly.

17. (original claim) The shopping cart frame of claim 16, wherein the upper one of said rod members lies substantially nearly in said handle plane, and the lower one of said rod members is disposed at a height corresponding with, and forming the pivot connection for, the pivoting rear gate of said container.

18. (original claim) The shopping cart frame of claim 17, wherein said pedestal surface means and the lower one of said rod members are arranged relative to one another such that when said container is disposed on said pedestal surface means, the container and the pivot connection for the rear gate of the container will be located substantially below said handle plane.

19. (original claim) The shopping cart frame of claim 16, and further including connecting rods projecting from said spine members forwardly and downwardly into securement with the rear of said pedestal for supporting said pedestal against excessive longitudinal forces.

20. (original claim) The shopping cart frame of claim 16, and further including resilient support elements connected between said pedestal and said side rails of said base for supporting said pedestal against excessive vertical forces.

21. (original claim) The shopping cart frame of claim 15, wherein the width of the rear portion of the wheeled base is substantially greater than the width of the forward portion of the wheeled base.

22. (original claim) The shopping cart of claim 1, wherein the width of the rear portion of the wheeled base is substantially greater than the width of the forward portion of the wheeled base.

23. (currently amended) The shopping cart of claim 15, and further including a horizontal rod mounted at a rear portion of the wheeled base for pivotably supporting a gate member at the rear of the container.